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RURAL DISTRICT OF
PEWSEY

ANNUAL
REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

AND OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR

1951

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PEWSEY

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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
PEWSEY.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the annual report on the public health of the District during 1951.

The estimated population furnished by the Registrar General was 18950. The excess of births over deaths during 1951 was 139 and the rate of natural increase is thus 7.3 per 1000 population. There were 315 (175 male and 140 female) live births which gives a rate per 1000 population of 16.6 which becomes 19.75 per 1000 when corrected for purposes of comparison with similar rates in other areas. The live birth rate for the administrative county is 15.4 and that for England and Wales 15.5 per 1000 population.

The death rate based on 176 deaths (86 males and 90 females) after correction for comparability was 10.4 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales and for the administrative county respectively was 12.5 and 11.3 per 1000 population.

The death rate in infants under one year of age (infant mortality rate) is 19.0 per 1000 live births: there were actually 6 (2 males and 4 females) such deaths in 315 births during 1951. The corresponding figure for this rate in the administrative county was 23.4 per 1000 live births and 29.6 per 1000 live births for England and Wales.

The neonatal (under 4 weeks of age) deaths were 3 in number. Death rates from special causes gave the following rates per 1000 population, for tuberculosis (0.16 per 1000), cancer (0.95 per 1000) and pneumonia (0.63 per 1000). The proportional mortality rates and principal diseases expressed as a proportion of the total deaths during the year were : diseases of the heart and circulation, other than coronary disease, 25.6 per cent, vascular lesions of the nervous system, 17.0 per cent, cancer, 10.2 per cent, coronary disease, 9.1 per cent, influenza, pneumonia and bronchitis, 15.3 per cent and tuberculosis 1.7 per cent.

The *incidence rates* per 1000 population for the following notifiable diseases in the District during 1951 were : whooping cough 1.3 (England and Wales 3.87), scarlet fever 0.2 (England and Wales 1.11) and measles 14.5 (England and Wales 14.07).

Notifications of infective diseases totalled 328 for the District during 1951 ; this number included also 6 cases of dysentery, and one case of undulant (abortus) fever.

Primary tuberculosis (all forms) notifications which are not included above numbered 11 during 1951 ; 9 respiratory and 2 other forms.

The position in regard to diphtheria immunization at 31/12/51 was 91.6 per cent, 3390 under 15 years of age have completed primary immunization ; and under 5 years of age 59.3 per cent of the population in that age group.

Other relevant data are given in the body of the report which is followed by that of the Sanitary Inspector.

It gives me great pleasure to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from the staff and my colleagues at all times.

I have the honour to be,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

RODERICK MACKAY,

Medical Officer of Health.

July, 1952.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health	R. MACKAY, M.D., D.P.H.
Senior Sanitary Inspector	E. W. NEWMAN, M.R.SAN.I., M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector	T. F. HARDING.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in acres	75828
Number of Parishes	25
Population mid-1951, as estimated by the Registrar General	Total 18950
Number of inhabited houses	4110
Number of new houses erected in 1951 :—	
By Private Enterprise	14
By Local Authority	48
Rateable Value	£98655
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£405

VITAL STATISTICS

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births	175	140	315
Legitimate	165	134	299
Illegitimate	10	6	16
Still Births	1	1	2
Legitimate	—	1	1
Illegitimate	1	—	1
Live Birth Rate			19.75
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales			15.5
Number of deaths from all causes	86	90	176
Death Rate (corrected)			10.4
Death Rate for England and Wales			12.5
Deaths of Infants under one year :—			
Total	2	4	6
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Infant Death Rate per 1000 live births			19.0
Infant Death Rate for England and Wales			29.6

NOTE :

The number of births, still-births, and deaths are those registered during 1951 after adjustment has been made for inward and outward transfers.

**BIRTH RATE: INFANT DEATH RATE; TOTAL DEATH
RATE, etc.—1951**

	<i>Pewsey R.D.</i>	<i>Administrative County</i>	<i>England and Wales</i>
Birth Rate (per 1000 pop.)	19.75	15.4	15.5
Death Rate (per 1000 pop.)	10.4	11.3	12.5
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year (per 1000 live births)	19.0	23.4	29.6
Death Rates—Special Causes (per 1000 pop.) :—			
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	0.16	0.17	0.31
Tuberculosis (other forms)	—	0.03	—
Cancer	.95	1.6	—
Pneumonia	0.63	0.5	0.61

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases during 1951 was 328 as against 137 in 1950. These included 25 whooping cough, 4 scarlet fever and 274 measles.

There were 6 cases of dysentery and one of undulant (abortus) fever.

Tables of the monthly and age incidence of infectious diseases are given on pages 5 and 6.

It will be noted that the greatest incidence was in April when 114 cases (including 111 measles) were notified. The age group with the highest notifications was 5—10 years with 155 cases of which 142 were measles. Increases were in the main due to measles which would appear to follow a biennial pattern.

TUBERCULOSIS

Eleven primary notifications were added to the register, 9 pulmonary and 2 non-pulmonary. There were 3 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis.

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 1951

<i>Disease</i>	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Scarlet Fever		1						1		2			4
Whooping Cough	8		2					3	11		1		25
Pulmonary T.B.		2	1	1	1	1		2				1	9
Other forms of T.B.		1											2
Measles	4	16	48	111	73	16	4	1		1			274
Pneumonia	9	3		1	1							1	15
Erysipelas	1											1	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum					1								1
Dysentery					5			1					6
Abortus Fever								1					1
TOTAL	22	23	51	114	81	17	4	9	11	3	1	3	*339

* Includes 11 notifications of tuberculosis.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) 1951

Disease	Total	Age (Years)												
		0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Unknown
Scarlet Fever	4				1									
Whooping Cough	25	1	4	3	5	5	3	1	5	2	2			1
Measles	274	3	12	24	35	27	142	21	5	5	2			
Pneumonia	15					1	4	1	2		1			
Erysipelas	2											1		
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1												
Dysentery	6			1				3	1	1				1
Abortus Fever	1													
TOTALS	328	5	16	28	41	33	155	26	8	8	5	1		2

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION and VACCINATION

These services are rendered by the County Medical Officer's department as Local Health Authority under Part III of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

Immunizations are carried out at welfare clinics, and at schools under the direct control of the County Medical Officer by the County Medical staff, and by general medical practitioners who also perform all vaccinations against smallpox on a patient-doctor basis by arrangement.

The County Medical Officer's department notifies mothers when the infant is three months old, and Health Visitor 'follow up' acts as a further stimulus, and also to ascertain whether consent is withheld, and to supplement information about infants who may have been vaccinated but not recorded and so on. Birth notifications are used as a basis for conducting this enquiry, and the register is kept up to date by record cards returned by the family doctor, supplemented by the Health Visitors' enquiries.

Despite these comprehensive arrangements which work well enough in the case of diphtheria immunization, vaccination numbers remain low, due undoubtedly to antipathy in some cases, but probably mostly to lack of appreciation that smallpox is even a deadlier disease than diphtheria, and that only adequate immunization and vaccination can keep them both effectively in control.

Although the deaths from diphtheria have dropped from 934 in 1944 to about 34 in 1951 (and notifications have decreased in the same period from about 23000 to about 700) far too few children are being inoculated against this disease in the first years of life. Of the 315 children born in the Rural District during 1951 only 21 are recorded as having been protected against diphtheria in the first year of life and only about one half of the estimated child population under 5 years of age was inoculated in that age group.

Similarly with vaccination 203 infants under a year old (or about 5 per cent of the child population under 15) were vaccinated in the District during 1951, and whereas the *total* proportion protected against diphtheria is reasonably high (92 per cent) those vaccinated under 15 years of age represent only 9 per cent of the total estimated child population under 15 years of age.

The medical staff stress the importance of these measures to parents on all possible occasions.

WATER SUPPLY

The main supplies at Pewsey, Ludgershall, Chute, Chute Forest and Wootton Rivers proved to be satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year.

The Collingbourne scheme should come into operation this year (1952) but no alternative supply exists for the heavily polluted wells in the Avon valley; and an adequate water supply in this region is necessary, if only by reason of the pollution of existing wells.

HOUSING

The work of the health department in this sphere included investigations in connection with overcrowding and the allocation of housing accommodation. There have been in addition specific calls on the staff in connection with statutory work under the Housing Act, and home visits in connection with infective disease investigations.

FOOD SUPERVISION

The Senior Sanitary Inspector's point in his report in regard to the part the public should play in "Clean Food" Campaigns should hardly need emphasizing, and shop counters should certainly not be used in the manner suggested.

No serious outbreak of infective disease attributable to unhygienic food was reported in the Rural District during 1951.

CAUSES OF DEATH—1951

REGISTRAR GENERAL'S RETURN

					M.	F.	Total
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	2	1	3
2	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	—	1	1
4	Diphtheria	..	..	..	—	—	—
5	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	—	1	1
6	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	—	—	—
7	Acute Poliomyelitis	..	..	..	—	—	—
8	Measles	..	..	..	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	1	—	1
10	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	1	1	2
11	" " lung, bronchus	..	..	..	3	—	3
12	" " breast	..	..	..	—	2	2
13	" " uterus	..	..	..	—	2	2
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	3	6	9
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	..	..	..	1	1	2
17	Vascular lesions of the nervous system	..	..	..	10	20	30
18	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	12	4	16
19	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	1	1	2
20	Other heart diseases	..	..	..	16	21	37
21	Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	1	5	6
22	Influenza	..	..	..	2	2	4
23	Pneumonia	..	..	..	5	7	12
24	Bronchitis	..	..	..	6	5	11
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	..	..	..	—	—	—
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	2	—	2
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	—	1	1
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	—	—	—
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	..	..	..	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	—	2	2
32	Other defined and illdefined diseases	..	..	..	5	5	10
33	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	11	1	12
34	All other accidents	..	..	..	3	—	3
35	Suicide	..	..	..	1	—	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	—	1	1
Total all causes					86	90	176

RURAL DISTRICT OF
PEWSEY

ANNUAL REPORT

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FOR THE YEAR

1951

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I respectfully present my second Annual Report of the work in the Public Health Department.

During the year I was asked by a member of the public what exactly was the work of a Sanitary Inspector. The work of the Sanitary Inspector is to discharge the duties imposed upon him as such by statute, for the furtherance of the Public Health and Welfare, in association with the Medical Officer of Health, embracing improvement in environment, adequate housing, and the prevention of infective disease, as the main landmarks. The Sanitary Inspector only comes into the limelight when large epidemics or outbreaks of food poisoning occur. Since our work is preventive rather than curative I have pleasure in reporting that at no time did the Public Health Department come into the public limelight.

I must thank members of the Council for the co-operation and assistance in the various parochial problems and must congratulate the Council as a whole for their realistic attitude to the question of making demolition orders despite the serious shortage of houses.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

E. W. NEWMAN.

TABLE OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS

Water supply	75
Drainage	270
Stables and Piggeries	4
Fried Fish Shops	3
Moveable Dwellings	62
Factories	15
Bakehouses	33
Pest Control	185
Miscellaneous Visits	198
Visits under Public Health Act, 1936	68
Visits under Housing Act, 1936	146
Overcrowding	392
Verminous Premises	16
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	126
Infectious Disease and Disinfection	25
Slaughterhouse and Knacker's Yard	298
Butchers	13
Fishmongers and Poulterers	1
Grocers	96
Dairies and Cowsheds	10
Ice-cream premises	8
Food preparing	44
Licenced Houses	97
Miscellaneous Food Visits	10
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TOTAL VISITS	2195
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Various complaints were received during the year and most were dealt with by verbal action.

Statutory action was resorted to in seven cases and the work was carried out in all cases without recourse to the Magistrates' Court.

HOUSING

New houses erected during the year :—

(a) By the Local Authority	48
(b) By Private Enterprise	14

OVERCROWDING AND ALLOCATION OF NEW HOUSES

At the beginning of the year this department undertook the task of investigating and reporting on every applicant for housing within the district. About 400 visits were made in the course of investigations.

It is our opinion that these investigations were well worth while and that as a result the Committee had the full facts of each case and were thus enabled to allocate houses to the most deserving cases. The points system continues to be used as a guide but the investigations have proved time and again that it must be only a guide.

During these inspections 39 cases of overcrowding were discovered and 15 were abated by the Local Authority re-housing.

ALLOCATION OF PRIVATE ENTERPRISE LICENCES

Investigations were also carried out into the degree of need of applicants for Private Enterprise licences.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING ACT, 1936

Houses represented for action under Section II	..	19
Demolition Order Confirmed	.. .. .	9
Undertakings accepted	.. .. .	4
Houses demolished	.. .. .	6
Undertakings completed	.. .. .	1

A number of houses upon which demolition orders are operative are now empty and it is hoped to secure their demolition in the next 12 months.

Houses rendered fit as a result of informal action	..	13
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RURAL HOUSING SURVEY

Owing to pressure of more urgent work the Rural Housing Survey remains incomplete. It is hoped however, to be able to report more favourably on this aspect of our work in 1952.

The enclosed table of applicants for Council houses makes interesting reading. It must be appreciated that it is only a guide to the need, because many applicants only apply when houses are in the course of construction in their Parish. Many childless couples would apply if they thought there was a chance of rehousing, but while 3 bedroom houses are built, they appreciate couples with children will have more points. Inspection of Council houses and of applicants for Council houses at all times emphasise the need for bungalows for young childless couples and couples whose families have grown and up started homes of their own.

TABLE OF HOUSING APPLICANTS AS AT JANUARY, 1952

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Sgle</i>	<i>Man and Wife</i>	<i>1 Child</i>	<i>2 Chil- dren</i>	<i>3 Chil- dren</i>	<i>4 Chil- dren</i>	<i>More than 4 Cdn</i>	<i>Est. Pop.</i>
Alton	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	372
Burbage	1	2	3	1	—	—	1	1337
Chute and Clute Forest	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	544
Charlton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	139
Coll. Ducis •	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	674
Coll. Kingston	—	2	—	1	—	—	—	530
Easton Royal	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	385
Enford	2	1	5	4	—	—	1	906
Everleigh	2	1	1	2	2	—	—	380
Ludgershall	—	17	33	10	6	1	1	1593
Manningford	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	598
Milton	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	670
Netheravon, Fittleton & Haxon	—	5	7	7	4	3	—	1430
N. Newton	—	—	2	—	1	1	—	387
N. Tidworth	—	24	26	10	5	4	—	3505
Pewsey	3	6	17	10	5	2	1	1991
Rushall	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	186
Upavon	1	3	3	3	1	—	—	939
Wilcot, Oare & Huish	—	6	3	1	2	2	—	765
Wilsford	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	192
Woodborough	—	2	1	2	2	—	—	397
Wootton Rivers	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	324
	9	73	108	57	28	14	4	18244

7 Sundries. Total 293 applications.

RODENT CONTROL

From the beginning of the year until March 31st, Rodent Control was carried out by Mr. R. Cooke, on behalf of the combined districts of Marlborough Borough, Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.C. and Pewsey R.D.C. This arrangement became completely inadequate when the responsibility to inspect farms was placed upon the Local Authorities by the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.

From 1st April, Mr. R. Cooke, was employed by the Pewsey R.D.C on an hourly basis. The methods used were as laid down by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, i.e. the premises were visited on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday to pre-bait, poison was laid on Friday and picked up on Saturday. The following week post-baiting takes place to discover if rats are still present. This entails further visits on at least Monday and Tuesday. It will be seen that 8 visits are necessary. This system is completely uneconomical. If a complaint is received at an outlying district, some 200 miles are travelled to account for only one or two rats. Towards the end of 1951, a new poison "Warfarin" was introduced which it appears will revolutionise the methods of rodent control. The poison is laid on the first day without any pre-baiting and this continues until rats cease to eat. The poison is left and most infestations seem to clear inside the 8 days. Experiments were carried out and proved highly successful. Premises which were never cleared by the old methods have been completely freed. A system has been laid down which necessitates no more than 4 or 5 visits to private houses so cutting down the time spent and the mileage travelled. By the time this report is published the Public Health and Housing Committee will have instituted a free service to private dwellings, so that people will complain freely and infestation be dealt with promptly. With the new poison I am far more confident of providing an efficient service to the public than has ever been possible before.

WATER SUPPLIES

Routine water samples were taken throughout the district and the main supplies of Pewsey, Chute, Chute Forest, Wootton Rivers and Ludgershall proved satisfactory both chemically and bacteriologically. I must respectfully draw the Council's attention to the fact that wells in the Avon valley are generally heavily polluted and there is as yet no alternative supply. Every effort must be made to provide this area with a piped supply.

The Collingbourne scheme is proceeding and most owners are prepared to take a supply into their houses. The Scheme should be in operation by the time this report is published.

WATER SUPPLY

Regular chemical and bacteriological samples have been taken throughout the district.

SAMPLES TAKEN BACTERIOLOGICAL

<i>Where taken</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Victoria House	Coll. Kingston	Satisfactory	Well	
French Horn	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Well	
White Hart	Oare	Satisfactory	Well	
504, Littlecot	Enford	Satisfactory	W.D. Main	
Buckleaze Farm	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Well	
Clench Farm	Clench	Satisfactory	Well	
Clench Farm	Clench	Satisfactory	Well	

<i>Where taken</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Clench Farm	Clench	Satisfactory	Well	Owner informed
Broderick, Cress Beds	Pewsey	Satisfactory		
Cottage, Southcot	Pewsey	Bad	Well	
Haywards Farm, Lower St.	Haxon	Satisfactory	Well	
Fry's Farm, Easton Royal	Easton Royal	Satisfactory	Well	
4, Sunnyside Cottages	Oare	Bad	Well	Tank cleaned between the paddock and Sunnyside Cotts. Now satisfactory.
The Paddock Tap in Conserva- tory, Council Office	Oare	Satisfactory	Well	Owner and Occu- pied advised
Tap over sink Council Offices	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Main	
Beckyntons Cott.	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Mains	
	E. Chisenbury Enford	Bad	Well	
Tap over sink, Down Cottage	E. Chisenbury Enford	Bad	Well	Owner and Occu- pied advised
Post Office 2, Wootton Rivers	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Borehole	
Beckyntons Cott. (Tap on deliv- ery service)	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Borehole	
Beckyntons Cotts (Tap on rising main from well to cistern)	E. Chisenbury Enford	Satisfactory	Well	
River adjoining Beckyntons Cotts.	E. Chisenbury Enford	Satisfactory	Well	
Stagg's Cottage	E. Chisenbury Enford	Bad	River	
Providence Cott.	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Borehole	Connected to lo- cal private main
Avon Villa (Tap on pump to well)	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Borehole	
	Rushall	Bad	Well	
Avon Villa (Tap over sink)	Rushall	Bad	Well	
Harris' Garage 2, Haines Terr.	Oare	Satisfactory	Well	
	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Main (Deepwell)	
Trew's Caravan	Woodborough	Satisfactory	Well	
Flow Meter Weir	Compton	Satisfactory	New Bore- hole	

<i>Where taken</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
Standpipe W.D. Mains	Everleigh	Satisfactory	W.D. Main	Owner advised
The Green (Durant)	Upavon	Bad	Well	
Flow Meter Weir	Compton	Satisfactory	New Bore-hole	
2, Douglas Villas	Ludgershall	Bad	Andover R.D.C. Main	
House in Castle Street	Ludgershall	Satisfactory	Andover R.D.C. Main	Works in progress on main
The Croft (cistern)	Upavon	Satisfactory	Well	Owner advised
The Croft (well)	Upavon	Satisfactory	Well	
Littlethatch	Upavon	Bad	Well	
The Croft (cistern to sink)	Upavon	Satisfactory	Well	
The Croft (from lift and force pump)	Upavon	Satisfactory	Well	
1, Wootton Rivers	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Reservoir	
Mr. James	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Reservoir	

SAMPLES TAKEN CHEMICAL

<i>Where taken</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Result</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>Action Taken</i>
Watercress Beds (Broderick)	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Well	
The Paddock	Oare	Satisfactory		
Tap in conservatory, Council Offices	Pewsey	Satisfactory	Mains	
Flow Meter Weir	Compton	Satisfactory	Borehole	
Flow Meter Weir	Compton	Satisfactory	Borehole	
Standpipe W.D. Mains	Everleigh	Satisfactory	W.D. Mains	
Littlethatch	Upavon	Satisfactory	Well	
Mr. James	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Reservoir	
1, Wootton Rivers	Wootton Rivers	Satisfactory	Reservoir	

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS

All moveable dwellings in the district were inspected during the year. In most cases there was no cause for complaint. The factory designed and manufactured caravan is not unsightly but it is felt that the converted 'bus type should be discouraged. At the present time moveable dwelling licences should be granted in all cases except where hygiene is concerned because they form a satisfactory temporary means of housing.

FACTORIES

Most of the factories in the district have been visited during the year and one or two improvements carried out. Particular attention has been paid to factories manufacturing food and drink for human consumption.

DRAINAGE

PEWSEY MAIN SEWER.

There are still 10 properties unconnected to the Pewsey sewer. Legal action is proceeding in three cases and the other properties will no doubt be connected in due course either by informal or statutory action. Twelve conversions of E.C's. to W.C's. took place in the last year.

LUDGERSHALL MAIN SEWER.

Towards the end of the year the Ludgershall sewer was completed and conversion of E.C's. to W.C's. and disconnection of cesspools and septic tanks immediately commenced. Up to 31st December, twenty-six new connections were tested.

SEPTIC TANK INSTALLATIONS.

A simple and economic form of septic tank installation has been designed suitable for up to three small cottages or, with enlargement, groups of cottages. Copies of the design were sent to all local builders and as a result we have secured the conversion of many E.C's. to W.C's. During the year fifteen of these septic tank installations have been installed and are in use. Enquiries are frequently received as to the possibility of installing these units and it seems probable many more will be installed in the next twelve months.

COLLINGBOURNE WATER SCHEME.

As properties connect to the mains water, consumption will increase by five or six times. As a result soakaways, cesspools and ditches which have hitherto dealt with waste water adequately will give rise to nuisances. It is therefore essential that plans go ahead to provide sewers to the parishes served by the water main.

NETHERAVON and UPAVON.

The open ditches in the above parishes remain a source of complaint. The County Surveyor has plans for covering in further lengths of these ditches but the only answer to the problem is provision of a sewage system. This coupled with the fact that the River Avon is becoming seriously polluted makes the sewerage of the Avon valley villages one of prime importance. It is hoped the Ministry of Housing and Local Government will give high priority to sewerage schemes for these villages as soon as they are prepared by the Engineers.

FOOD HYGIENE

The question of food hygiene has been given considerable publicity over the last few years, and the food trader is becoming increasingly "clean food" conscious. Shops without a washbasin, soap and towel are the exception rather than the rule. The dirty shop is a rarity and the untidy sub-standard shop becoming less in evidence. The time has come when we must educate the public in their side of the problem. Dirty shopping baskets are placed upon the counter. Ration books are frequently very dirty and it is not uncommon for a fond mother to sit her baby on the counter.

The housewife must consider her own responsibilities in this matter and assist the food trader.

If the Council are at all in doubt as to the need for food hygiene publicity in a small rural area such as this, I would quote the following details of food manufacturers within the district:—

One-thousand four hundred meals per day are provided by the County Education Committee's meals centres in the districts.

The N.A.A.F.I. bakehouse at Ludgershall distributes the following over an area from Ford in Sussex to the Isle of Wight in the South and from Newbury to Salisbury in the North:—

300000 small cakes per week (over 1 million per month), 1080 sandwiches per week, 5572 Swiss Rolls, 3 tons Slab cake, 3 cwts. of synthetic cream are used every week.

MEAT INSPECTION

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	<i>Cattle excluding cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>
Number killed	730 (711)	387 (418)	1069 (1175)	3294 (3335)	27 (22)
Number inspected	730	387	1069	3294	27
<i>All Diseases ex- cept Tuberculosis</i>					
Whole carcasses condemned	7 (2)	4 (4)	3 (2)	12 (20)	1 (2)
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condem- ned	150 101	47 38	3 3	141 258	8 2
Percentage of number inspect- ed affected with disease other than tuberculosis	21.50 (14.49)	13.18 (10.05)	0.56 (.43)	4.64 (8.34)	33.33 (18.18)
<i>Tuberculosis only</i>					
Whole carcass condemned	6 (2)	8 (1)	0	0	0
Carcases of which some part or or- gan was condem- ned.	41 (73)	67 (80)	0 (1)	0	0
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with tuberculosis.	6.43 (10.558)	19.377 (19.378)	0	0	0

MEAT CONDEMNED

				<i>Carcases Diseases other than T.B.</i>	
<i>T.B.</i>	<i>Offal Liver Fluke</i>	<i>Abscesses</i>	<i>Other Diseases</i>	<i>T.B.</i>	
4024 lb.	2398 lb.	882 lb.	2176 lb.	5343	4701

TOTAL : 19524 lb.

MEAT INSPECTION.

Every animal killed in the Rural District slaughterhouse was inspected and condemnations were made according to the attached schedule. Unfortunately, many animals for slaughter are not delivered to the slaughterhouse till late in the day, and delivery to the butcher commences early next morning. This means that the majority of inspections take place out of office hours particularly during the peak period of September, October and November, when above 8 hours per week is worked either late at night or early morning.

Though the numbers slaughtered are slightly lower over the whole year the peak period shows an average increase of 10 per cent.

SCHOOLS

Schools in the district are being inspected as a matter of routine, particular attention being paid to sanitary accommodation, provision for taking meals and washing-up facilities.

The standard of sanitary accommodation in the small Parish School is very low. Water closets are the exception rather than the rule. One school has no water supply of any kind within the curtilage. Another has side by side closets without a partition. Since small Parish Schools are an essential, every effort should be made to provide piped water supply and water carriage sanitary accommodation.

Meals are invariably taken in the classroom and it is realised that to aim at a meals room is unfortunately looking many years ahead.

It is felt however, that running cold water and a supply of hot water to a sink with proper drainage are essential.

Although the Ministry of Education have sponsored an economy campaign it seems a pity that these essential improvements to Village schools cannot be carried out at the expense of scaling down some of the new educational "palaces" being erected in various parts of the country.

Our clean food campaign should start in the school.

*E. H. Perkins and Son Ltd ,
Marlborough.*